

REGULAR WEEKLY SESSION-----ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

February 19, 2002

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Tuesday, February 19, 2002, at 2:00 p.m., the regular meeting hour, in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor Ralph K. Smith presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended.

PRESENT: Council Members William H. Carder, William White, Sr., W. Alvin Hudson, Jr., William D. Bestpitch, C. Nelson Harris, Linda F. Wyatt and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Father Peter E. Papanikolaou, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Smith.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-SISTER CITIES: The Mayor welcomed , the Youth Chinese Opera. He advised that the troupe recently honored engagements in Denver and Chicago and will perform on Thursday, February 21, in Shaftman Performance Hall at the City's Jefferson Center. He stated that the fact that this group of young people have chosen to come to Roanoke speaks a great deal about Roanoke's Sister Cities Program, and expressed appreciation to Pearl Fu, Chair, Lijang Sister City Committee, for her assistance in bringing the troupe to the City of Roanoke.

On behalf of the Members of Council, the Mayor presented each member of the troupe with an Honorary Citizen Certificate and presented Chen, Jung Hsing, Principal, National Taiwan Junior College of Performing Arts, with a gold star which is symbolic of the Star on Mill Mountain.

PROCLAMATIONS-HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: The Mayor presented a proclamation declaring March 1- 2, 2002, as Habitat for Humanity Days in the City of Roanoke.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion was desired, that item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. He called attention to a communication from the City Manager requesting a closed meeting to discuss a matter of disposition of publicly held real property, pursuant to Section 2.1-344 (A) (3), Code of Virginia (1950) as amended.

Ms. Wyatt moved that Consent Agenda Item C-3 with regard to the qualification of Ralph K. Smith as a Commissioner of the Hotel Roanoke Conference Center Commission and Dolores Y. Johns as a member of the Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare Board of Directors be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted.

MINUTES: Minutes of the regular meetings of Council held on Monday, December 17, 2002, Monday, January 7, 2002, and an extract of the regular meeting held on Tuesday, January 22, 2002, were before the body.

Ms. Wyatt moved that Council dispense with the reading of the minutes and that the members be approved as recorded. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, White, Hudson, Bestpitch, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY MANAGER-CITY COUNCIL: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss a matter with regard to acquisition of real property for public purpose, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Ms. Wyatt moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager to convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss a matter with regard to acquisition of real property for public purpose, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, White, Hudson, Bestpitch, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

REGULAR AGENDA

HOTEL ROANOKE CONFERENCE CENTER-BLUE RIDGE BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE-OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES: The following reports of qualification were before Council:

Ralph K. Smith as a member of the Hotel Roanoke Conference Center Commission, to fill the unexpired term of James D. Grisso, resigned, commencing February 1, 2002, and ending April 12, 2004; and

Dolores Y. John as a member of the Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Board of Directors, for a term ending December 31, 2004.

Ms. Wyatt moved that the reports of qualification be tabled. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted, Mayor Smith voted no.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

BUDGET- YOUTH- WEST END CENTER- GRANTS: Kaye Hale, Executive Director, West End Center for Youth, advised that the West End Center is grateful for the City's past support; however, she addressed revision to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) policy awards by the City of Roanoke and its affect on local human service organizations. She stated that competition for and acquisition of funds by local non-profits organizations are areas of concern; most private community based organizations such as the West End Center receive only small amounts (five to ten per cent) of public funds, with little or no State or Federal support; and community-based organizations have no additional affiliation, therefore, it is difficult to compete for dollars on the national level, which makes it even more crucial that they at least maintain the level of municipal support they currently receive.

She stated that there currently are two pools of municipal funding that human service agencies can apply for. i.e., CDBG and Consolidated Human Services; from this point forward, CDBG will fund only seed programs or new programs; a large amount of, funding applied for by the West End Center is seed money, therefore, where would the West End Center acquire funds to continue those operating programs that have a proven track record without having to create programs to chase the funding steam. She further stated that 90 per cent of West End Center funding comes from private local sources; replacing the \$27,000.00 that the West End Center receives from CDBG funds will be a huge undertaking; and many organizations have taken steps backward in view of the national crisis and the downturn in the economy.

Ms. Hale requested that Council consider the possibility of increasing the amount of dollars substantially through the Consolidated Human Services Grant, or creating another revenue stream to keep municipal funding at or greater than current levels for local organizations with a proven track record.

Dr. Cheri W. Hartman, Director of Teen Outreach, Family Service of Roanoke Valley, advised that child care has recently been prioritized by the City of Roanoke in its Human Resources Grant application process. She inquired as to how well the City can fund this priority, not just in relation to other Human Services demands, but in the context of the General Fund budget; whereupon, she requested that Council carefully re-evaluate how much of the City's overall budget is available for meeting the needs of children.

She advised that recently the City took a stand to strictly enforce the seed money intentions of CDBG funds and the City is trying to be faithful to the intent of CDBG allocations; however, this approach can undermine ongoing, effective programs that are currently in place to assist Roanoke's children. She stated that any time the "wheel is reinvented", on time is allowed for something new to be created, precious resources will be wasted and Roanoke's children will be sacrificed. She further stated that the City of Roanoke needs an alternate resource to support ongoing, effective, long lasting children's programs if CDBG funds are not intended to be a source of support for vitally needed long term efforts that benefit Roanoke's children.

Dr. Hartman pointed out that several after school programs currently depend on CDBG monies, such as Hurt Park Magic Place and West End Center. She inquired as to what will happen when this seed money is withheld from these various after school programs, the result of which will be that fewer children will be served unless an alternative means of funding is provided for families who cannot afford fees for child care.

Mr. Bestpitch advised that he supports the changes to CDBG policy which were a positive step in the right direction. However, he noted that both speakers have identified an important issue that if CDBG funds are dedicated for certain uses, money should be identified in the General Fund budget to increase the Human Services budget so that the City can do its part in terms of ongoing operational support for these types of programs. He encouraged the City Manager, as Council prepares to meet in fiscal year 2002-03 budget study, to review the amount of support that has been provided in the past from CDBG funds to such organizations to determine the dollar amount increase which will be necessary in the Human Services budget to insure that ongoing support is available to cultural and human service agencies.

Ms. Wyatt concurred in the remarks of Mr. Bestpitch; whereupon, Council Members Bestpitch and Wyatt requested that the City Manager provide Council with the following information at its Financial Planning Session to be held on Friday, March 8, 2002:

The amount of funds provided by the City through Community Development Block Grant funds for certain programs that have a demonstrated history of success; i.e.: the West End Center, the Presbyterian Center, Hurt Park Magic Place, TOP Program, etc., compared with the amount of funds that will be needed to increase the human services budget to insure ongoing support of such programs.

How much would the admissions tax have to be increased, city-wide, for all venues, excluding City operated facilities, in order to generate additional revenues for human and cultural service organizations?

Mr. White advised that three things could happen; i.e.: increase a tax, re-engineer or reallocate funds, or cut a program. He stated that the appropriate action would be to refer the questions to fiscal year 2002-03 budget study for discussion; whereupon, he moved that the matter be referred to fiscal year 2002-03 budget study. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson.

Ms. Wyatt requested a point of clarification and advised that she and Mr. Bestpitch previously requested that the Council be provided with the above referenced information at its March 8 Financial Planning Session and inquired if Mr. White would concur with including the request in his motion.

Mr. White advised that traditionally, financial planning has encompassed long term types of financial and capital needs, as opposed to operating issues which are discussed during budget study sessions. However, he stated that he would not be opposed to receiving the information requested by Council Members Bestpitch and Wyatt at the March 8 Financial Planning Session.

The motion was revised to provide that the matter will be referred to the Council's March 8, 2002 Financial Planning Session and to fiscal year 2002-03 budget study for discussion, and unanimously adopted.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS: None.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

ARMORY/STADIUM-ROANOKE CIVIC CENTER-CONSULTANTS REPORTS:
The City Manager submitted a communication advising that at its meeting on August 6, 2001, Council adopted a resolution authorizing design and construction of a new stadium/amphitheater to be constructed at a site across from the Roanoke Civic Center, at a total project cost of \$18 million, which will primarily be funded through the sale of \$16.2 million of Series 2002 General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds; in October 2001, a Request for Proposals to solicit professional architectural and engineering design services was publicly advertised, and the City received qualification proposals from seven design teams; and a seven-member selection committee composed of four Roanoke citizens: (Jim Burks, Calvin Johnson, Maryellen Goodlatte, and Brian Shepard), a member of the City School Administration Office (Richard Kelley, Assistant Superintendent for Operations) and two City-staff (Jim Evans, Director of Civic Facilities, and Phil Schirmer, City Engineer) short-listed the following consultants and subconsultants for interviews:

**HKS Inc. (HKS Sport) and SFCS Inc.
Moseley Harris & McClintock and HOK Sport
Rosser, International, Inc./Hayes Seay Mattern & Mattern, Inc.
Spectrum Design and Heery International, Inc.**

It was further advised that following interviews, Rosser International, Inc., was selected as best qualified to provide the required services for the proposed project; and in addition to all normal architectural/engineering design and construction phase services, the services will include a traffic planning study of major roads and intersections in the vicinity of the stadium-amphitheater and the Civic Center, provision of an operations consultant, acoustical design, food service and graphics design services for a lump sum fee of \$1,250,000.00.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to execute a contract for consultant services with Rosser International, Inc., in the amount of \$1,250,000.00, said contract to be approved as to form by the City Attorney.

Mr. Bestpitch offered the following resolution:

(#35750-021902) A RESOLUTION authorizing a contract with Rosser International, Inc., for architectural/engineering design and construction phase services, which will include a traffic planning study of major roads and intersections in the vicinity of the stadium-amphitheater and Civic Center, provision of an operations consultant, acoustical design, food service and graphics design services and related work for the Stadium-Amphitheater Complex Project.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 65, page 427.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Resolution No. 35750-021902. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder. Mr. Hudson requested that the City Manager identify all consultants that submitted proposals including fee information; whereupon, the City Manager explained that the process is not an issue of low bid or procurement of goods and services where the lowest responsible bidder is selected, but a professional services contract in which the fee is negotiable. Although since information is not routinely provided, to the Council, she advised that it is available and will be forthcoming.

Vice-Mayor Carder advised that the selection of Rosser International Inc., was an open process through a committee that was appointed by the City Manager, and the committee, recommended Rosser International, Inc. as the firm to design architectural engineering and construction phase services for the stadium/amphitheater complex.

The City Attorney requested to respond to the process that was followed in recommending the selection of Rosser International; whereupon, he advised that the process, however an competitive negotiation, is required by the Virginia Public Procurement Act and the City Procurement Ordinance. He stated that professional services are not put out for bids for a dollar amount, the idea being that since they are professional services, a request for proposals is prepared listing qualifications and various criteria for proposers to submit for evaluation by a committee charged with that responsibility. He explained that the request for proposals must set out the criteria by which the proposals are to be evaluated and states that cost is not to be a part of the proposal, cost is not addressed until respondents are short listed and ranked, and the City is required to open negotiations with the top ranked proposers and reach a dollar figure for a contract within the amount of funds previously authorized by the City. He further stated that only if the parties are unable to work out a contract that is satisfactory to the governing body through negotiation does the process proceed to the next ranked propose, which is the usual practice followed by the City.

The Mayor stated that he could not support the motion because it appears that all City contracts regarding the civic center, and stadium/amphitheater project have been awarded to Rosser International. He added that he was less than impressed with the presentations Rosser International provided on the various concepts for Victory Stadium, therefore, he lost confidence in the firm. He advised that he was not making accusations as to any improprieties, he understands the selection process and the fact that the City is not required to go to public bid, however, there is a perception that the same firm always seems to be the best firm, and there is a perception that the "old boy network" is in place. In the future, he suggested that when considerable sums of taxpayers' money is to be spent, the City should engage in a more open process to avoid the perception that the City sends all of its Civic Center and stadium/amphitheater business to the same firm.

Mr. Bestpitch advised that all Members of Council had more than 18 months to be involved in the process, because it was known prior to July 1, 2000, that the issue of a stadium/amphitheater for the City of Roanoke had been on the docket for quite some time. He explained that the various proposals presented by Rosser International to Council in the past in regard to designs for the potential stadium/amphitheater have been in response to requests by Members of Council who offered various suggestions, therefore, Rosser International responded with a specific proposal. He stated that to suggest at this point that Roanoke's citizens would be better served, or that the City's budget would be better served by engaging the services of a consultant who is not familiar with the background or participated in previous discussions, would be a poor way to conduct City business.

The City Manager clarified that inasmuch as there was concern regarding bias,

the process was more open than has typically been the case and a number of citizens were invited to participate in the selection process, which outnumbered the number of professional staff on both the City side and the School Board side. She stated that the School Board participated in the selection process because the stadium will be a large part of its plans for public education, therefore, the City administration tried to be as open as possible throughout the process and to involve community input by persons who are not recipients of presentations on various models. She explained that when the short list was created of four firms, each of the four firms was given one hour to make a presentation to the panel that included all of their ideas regarding the stadium/amphitheater at a defined general site which enabled the panel to assess their creativity and approach to solving the issue.

Resolution No. (#35750-021902) was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, White, Bestpitch, Harris and Wyatt-----5.

NAYS: Council Member Hudson and Mayor Smith-----2.

TRAFFIC-STREET LIGHTS-BUDGET-SIGNALS AND ALARMS-EQUIPMENT-STREETS AND ALLEYS: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the intersection of Williamson Road and Hildebrand Road was identified in the 1997 bond referendum as a location for which traffic signalization would be implemented; design has been completed and the project has been bid; with The Richardson-Wayland Electrical Corporation submitting the low bid in the amount of \$47,844.00, and 60 consecutive calendar days; for construction; funding in the amount of \$52,600.00 is needed for the project and additional funds that exceed the contract amount will be used for miscellaneous project expenses, including advertising, prints, test services, minor variations in bid quantities and unforeseen project expenses.

The City Manager recommended that Council accept the bid of The Richardson-Wayland Electrical Corporation, in the amount of \$47,844.00, with 60 consecutive calendar days of contract time; and authorize the Director of Finance to transfer \$52,600.00 from Public Improvement Bonds – Series 1999, Account No. 008-052-9709-9191, to a new account to be entitled, Signalization of Williamson Road/Hildebrand Road; and reject all other bids received by the City.

Mr. White offered the following emergency budget ordinance:

(#35751-021902) AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain certain sections of the 2001-2002 Capital Projects Fund Appropriations, and providing for an emergency.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 65, page 428.)

Mr. White moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35751-021902. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, White, Hudson, Bestpitch, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Mr. White offered the following ordinance:

(#35752-021902) AN ORDINANCE accepting the bid of The Richardson-Wayland Electrical Corporation for the signalization of Williamson Road and Hildebrand Road, upon certain terms and conditions, and awarding a contract therefor; authorizing the proper City officials to execute the requisite contract for such work; rejecting all other bids made to the City for the work; and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 65, page 429.)

Mr. White moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35752-021902. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, White, Hudson, Bestpitch, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

BUDGET-FIRE DEPARTMENT-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES-EQUIPMENT-CMERP: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Capital Maintenance and Equipment Replacement Program (CMERP) has identified the need to replace one 1500 GPM fire engine with water tower for the Fire-EMS Department; whereupon, the City Manager recommended that Council appropriate Retained Earnings in the amount of \$429,767.00 to Account No. 017-440-2642-9010, and accept the bid of Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corporation, at a total cost of \$429,767.00; and reject all other bids received by the City.

Mr. Harris offered the following emergency budget ordinance:

(#35753-021902) AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain certain sections of the 2001-2002 Fleet Management Fund Appropriations, and providing for an emergency.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 65, page 430.)

Mr. Harris moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35753-021902. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, White, Hudson, Bestpitch, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Mr. Harris offered the following resolution:

(#35754-021902) A RESOLUTION accepting the bid of Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corporation for the purchase of one new fire 1500 GPM fire engine with water tower, upon certain terms and conditions; and rejecting all other bids made for such item.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 65, page 431.)

Mr. Harris moved the adoption of Resolution No. 35754-021902. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, White, Hudson, Bestpitch, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT-DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the City wishes to enter into a contractual agreement with a provider of Virginia State Certified Incident Based Reporting software and software services for the following:

A client based Incident Based Reporting system to be run on Panasonic CF-28 computers in the City's Police Patrol vehicles.

Develop or assist in the development of both front and backend interfaces to the IBR client application.

Assist in the implementation of the system and create utilities that further the functionality of the system.

It was further advised that although the sealed bid method of procurement would normally be used, it is not practicable or fiscally advantageous to the public in procuring the above services; and the experience, qualifications, and references of firms that can provide the above listed services are of equal, if not greater, importance than the cost.

It was pointed out that the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979) as amended, provides, as an alternate method of procurement to using the bid process, a process identified as “competitive negotiation;” prior approval by Council is necessary before the alternate method may be used; and this method will allow for negotiations with two or more providers to determine the best qualified at the most competitive price or rate.

The City Manager recommended that Council authorize the use of competitive negotiation as the method to secure vendors to provide appropriate services.

Mr. Carder offered the following resolution:

(#35755-021902) A RESOLUTION designating the procurement method known as competitive negotiation, rather than the procurement method known as competitive sealed bidding, to be used for the procurement of Virginia State Certified Incident Based Reporting software and software services; and documenting the basis for this determination.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 65, page 432.)

Mr. Carder moved the adoption of Resolution No. 35755-021902. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, White, Hudson, Bestpitch, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT-BUDGET-GRANTS: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) provides grant funding for programs and activities which increase the apprehension, prosecution, and adjudication of persons committing violent crimes against women; the program, “Virginia Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution” (VSTOP), Violence Against Women, has funded the establishment of a Domestic Violence Unit within the Roanoke Police Department since 1999; on December 17, 2001, DCJS awarded the Police Department \$27,003.00 to employ a full time, non-sworn, Domestic Violence Specialist, thereby allowing continuation of the Domestic Violence Unit in calendar year 2002; the required City in-kind match (\$21,915.00) will be met through salary paid to current Police Department personnel; the required cash match of \$7,116.00 will be met through Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds, Account No. 035-640-3304 (\$5,441.00) and the Police Department Budget, Account Nos. 001-640-3112-2030 (\$1,012.00) and 001-640-3112-2044 (\$663.00); the Domestic Violence Unit collects and interprets relevant domestic violence offense data which allows proactive case intervention and cultivation of the cooperative working relationships with clients and service/adjudication agencies; and the program produces more equitable victim-offender criminal justice dispositions related to domestic violence offenses.

The City Manager recommended that Council accept the V-STOP grant of \$27,003.00, and authorize execution of grant agreements related to said grant; appropriate \$34,119.00 (State Funds plus local cash match) to V-STOP grant program accounts to be established by the Director of Finance; transfer local match funding of \$1,675.00 from Police Department operating accounts to the Grant Account;

establish a revenue estimate of \$27,003.00 and a local match estimate of \$7,116.00 in Grant Fund revenue accounts, with the in-kind portion to be tracked but not appropriated.

Mr. Hudson offered the following emergency budget ordinance:

(#35756-021902) AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain certain sections of the 2001-2002 General and Grant Funds Appropriations, and providing for an emergency.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 65, page 433.)

Mr. Hudson moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35756-021902. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, White, Hudson, Bestpitch, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Mr Carder offered the following resolution:

(#35757-021902) A RESOLUTION accepting the Virginia Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution (VSTOP) Violence Against Women Grant offer made to the City by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and authorizing execution of any required documentation on behalf of the City.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 65, page 434.)

Mr. Carder moved the adoption of Resolution No. 35757-021902. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, White, Hudson, Bestpitch, Harris, Wyatt, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Ms. Wyatt requested that the City Manager provide a more in depth report on the V-STOP Grant.

STREET LIGHTS-AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER-STREETS AND ALLEYS:
The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the rates that Appalachian Power Company (sometimes d/b/a American Electric Power) (“APCo”) charges to the City of Roanoke for electric service are favorable governmental rates established by contract; historically, the City of Roanoke has participated with other

local governments through the Virginia Municipal League (VML) and the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) in sponsoring a Steering Committee to negotiate governmental electric power rate contracts every three years; in the past, these contracts have included all three components of retail electric service, i.e.: generation, transmission, and distribution; and Roanoke's current electric rate contract with APCo expires on June 30, 2002, and the street lighting contract expires on December 31, 2002.

It was further advised that ordinarily, a new local government contract for the time period after June 30, 2002, would be negotiated and presented to Council for approval; however, in 1999, the General Assembly adopted the Virginia Electric Utility Restructuring Act ("Act") which theoretically granted customers a choice as to the provider of the generation element of their electric service; under the Act, the other two components of service, transmission and distribution, will continue to be provided by APCo under the existing rate procedure; due in part to a proceeding in the Federal Energy Regulation Commission resulting from APCo's attempt to restructure its generating capacity and price computations under the Act, a Steering Committee has negotiated a settlement agreement dated December 18, 2001, whereby APCo has agreed to provide public authorities with the following three options: (1) terminate the current contracts on June 30, 2002; (2) extend the contracts at scheduled rates to December 31, 2003, pursuant to an offer dated February 12, 2001, or (3) extend the current contracts through June 30, 2007, at rates contained in APCo's unbundled Standard Rate Schedules, or any successor or replacement schedules then on file and approved by the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) and extend street light service at rates in effect July 1, 2000, but subject to changes in the fuel factor; provided that option (3) is conditioned upon the governmental unit so electing and notifying APCo of its election within 90 days of December 18, 2001, that it has chosen APCo to provide generation service through June 30, 2007, that it will not choose a different supplier prior to such date, and it will not request the SCC to determine rates and provisions for default service different from that provided under its contract, as amended by Option (3) It was noted that the settlement agreement, dated December 18, 2001, is subject to certain conditions, including approval by the SCC, and in the event these conditions are not met, the agreement would terminate and expire as of December 31, 2003.

It was advised that currently available information suggests that during the period of July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2007, there will be no open market competition for APCo in the City's service area and there will be no other source practicably available to supply electricity service and delivery thereof and to supply street lighting service for the entire needs of the City of Roanoke at established rates for such service as negotiated by the Steering Committee; according to the Steering

Committee, APCo's generation rate structure is one of the lowest in the country; in a January 10, 2002, memorandum to members of the Steering Committee from counsel, it was noted that APCo has conducted a pilot program whereby APCo's retail customers could select an alternative service provider for generation service, however, no customer switched to an alternative provider during the entire time of the program; in addition, a January 18, 2002, report by GDS Associates, Inc., a consultant retained by the Steering Committee to evaluate the reasonableness of APCo's settlement proposal, concluded that competitive retail market prices available to public authorities for the generation component of electric service are likely to be at least 50 per cent higher than the charges for comparable service under the proposed settlement agreement; and in addition, the Steering Committee has informed public authorities that market prices for electricity in the next five to seven years are likely to be extremely volatile which will make budgeting extremely difficult.

It was stated that the Steering Committee has recommended that all jurisdictions in the APCo service area elect option (3) to extend contracts from June 30, 2002, through June 30, 2007, including street light contracts, at the rates and subject to conditions as set forth in the settlement agreement; and in accordance with terms of the proposed settlement, a governing body electing option (3) must do so by resolution or ordinance and notify APCo through the Steering Committee's counsel no later than March 18, 2002.

The City Manager recommended that Council authorize the following actions:

Council determine that APCo is the only source practicably available to provide the electric rate and street lighting services set forth above;

Accept the offer of APCo to extend its current contract for electric service on a bundled basis from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2007, as set forth in the settlement agreement, and as agreed to and recommended by the Steering Committee, and also to extend the City's street lighting contract through June 30, 2007;

Agree that in accordance with the conditions in APCo's offer that Council has chosen APCo to provide generation service through June 30, 2007, Council will not choose a different supplier prior to such date, and Council will not request the State Corporation Commission to determine rates and provisions for default service different from that provided in the contracts, as amended and extended as set forth above;

Authorize the City Manager to execute and deliver on behalf of the City all documents, in a form approved by the City Attorney, and take such further action as shall be deemed appropriate or necessary to carry out the foregoing actions;

Direct the City Clerk to notify APCo of the aforesaid election and agreement by transmitting a copy to counsel for the Committee, Howard W. Dobbins, 1021 East Cary Street, P. O. Box 1320, Richmond, Virginia, who is authorized to deliver same to APCo.

Mr. White offered the following resolution:

(#35758-021902) A RESOLUTION determining that Appalachian Power Company (sometimes d/b/a American Electric Power) is the only source practicably available to provide electric service at established rates to the City and for providing street lighting service to the City for the period from July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2007, and authorizing an extension of the City's current contracts for such services,

upon certain terms and conditions.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 65, page 436.)

Mr. White moved the adoption of Resolution No. 35758-021902. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, White, Hudson, Bestpitch, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

As requested by a Member of Council, the City Manager addressed the matter of replacement of street lights. She advised that under the existing contract, AEP clearly has responsibility for street light maintenance, which it views as a contract issue, therefore, AEP has been diligent in keeping the City informed as to progress.

CITY CLERK:

COMMITTEES-SCHOOLS : The City Clerk submitted a written report advising that on June 30, 2002, the three-year terms of office of Charles W. Day and Brian J. Wishneff as Trustees of the Roanoke City School Board will expire; Mr. Day is ineligible to serve another term inasmuch as he has served three consecutive three-year terms of office; pursuant to Chapter 9, Education, of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, establishing a procedure for the election of School Trustees, Council must hold certain meetings and take certain actions during the months of March, April and May to conform with the selection process; therefore, she requested the concurrence of Council in establishing the following dates:

On Monday, March 18 at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, Council as a Committee of the Whole, will review and consider all candidates for the position of School Trustee. At such meeting, Council shall review all applications filed for the position and Council may elect to interview candidates for such positions.

On Monday, April 1 at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, Council will, by public vote, select from the field of candidates, those candidates to be accorded the formal interview and all other candidates will be eliminated from the School Trustee selection process. The number of candidates to be granted the interview shall not exceed three times the number of positions available on the

Roanoke City School Board, should there be so many candidates.

On Monday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, Council will hold a public hearing to receive the views of citizens.

On Thursday, April 18 at 4:30 p.m., Council will hold a meeting for the purpose of conducting a public interview of candidates for the position of School Trustee.

On Monday, May 6 at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, Council will hold an election to fill the two vacancies for terms commencing July 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2005.

Mr. Carder moved that Council concur in the above referenced dates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and unanimously adopted.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:

BUDGET-HOUSING/AUTHORITY-GRANTS: The Director of Finance submitted a report advising that by agreement with the City of Roanoke, the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority administers a large segment of the City's Community Development Block Grant program; the Housing Authority receives program income during the course of its administration of various projects through the sale of land and the receipt of loan repayments from project area residents; the Housing Authority is required to transfer program income to the City of Roanoke and the City is required to use the income for eligible community development activities; the Housing Authority has made payments to the City in the amount of \$83,830.00 from May 16, 2001, to January 31, 2002, in excess of revenue estimates previously adopted; and of this amount, \$29,600.00 resulted from parking lot rental, and \$54,230.00 from various loan repayment programs.

It was further advised that the City of Roanoke has received the following miscellaneous program income which amounts represent the difference between what was actually received and the amount that was previously adopted, based on repayment estimates:

\$44,620.00 from Hotel Roanoke, L.L.C. for loan repayment and interest on the \$6,000,000.00 Section 108 loan from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. During FY02, Hotel Roanoke made payment totaling \$65,320.00;

\$1,022.00 in various loan repayments and \$5,646.00 in demolition revenue; and

\$70,008.00 from the Williamson Road Parking Garage, which was constructed in part using CDBG funds:

The Director of Finance recommended that Council appropriate \$206,116.00 in unanticipated CDBG program income as follows:

Unprogrammed CDBG - Other - FY01	(035-G01-0140-5189)	\$ 6,668.00
Unprogrammed CDBG - RRHA - FY01	(035-G01-0140-5197)	7,265.00
Unprogrammed CDBG - Section 108	(035-G02-0240-5188)	44,620.00
Loan Repayment - FY02		
Unprogrammed CDBG - Other - FY02	(035-G02-0240-5189)	70,998.00
Unprogrammed CDBG - RRHA - FY02	(035-G02-0240-5197)	76,565.00

The Director of Finance noted that the Housing Authority also administers a segment of the City's HOME program, with assistance provided by the Housing Authority predominantly in the form of low- or no-interest active and deferred loans to eligible homeowners and homebuyers; loan repayments constitute program income to the City's HOME program; and as of January 31, 2002, loan repayments received in excess of the budget estimate equal \$21,535.00.

The Director of Finance recommended that Council appropriate \$21,535.00 in unanticipated HOME program income as follows:

Unprogrammed HOME - FY02	(035-090-5324-5320)	\$ 19,634.00
Unprogrammed HOME - FY02	(035-090-5323-5320)	1,901.00

Mr. Harris offered the following emergency budget ordinance:

(#35759-021902) AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain certain sections of the 2001-2002 Grant Fund Appropriations, and providing for an emergency.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 65, page 439.)

Mr. Harris moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35759-021902. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, White, Hudson, Bestpitch, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

BUDGET-SCHOOLS: A communication from the Roanoke City School Board requesting that Council approve the following appropriations, was before the body.

\$210,695.00 from the Capital Maintenance and Equipment Replacement Fund to provide funds for music instrument replacement, administrative technology equipment, replacement of school buses, facility maintenance equipment, the relocation of modular units, physical education equipment, and handicap access.

\$1,500.00 for the Special Education Assistive Technology program to provide funds for the purchase of equipment and software to assist students with disabilities. This continuing program will be reimbursed 100 per cent by Federal funds.

\$20,188.00 for the Special Education Capacity Building (Sliver) program to provide funds to assist the division in providing direct services and in making systemic change to improve results for children with disabilities. This continuing program will be reimbursed 100 per cent by Federal funds.

\$2,608.00 for the Jobs for Virginia Graduates program to serve at least 25 economically disadvantaged students, providing classroom training and work experience to assist the students to prepare for high school graduation or to sit for the General Education Development (GED) examination. This continuing program is funded from Federal funds.

\$7,500.00 for the Expanded GED Testing Services program to establish a satellite GED test center at the Virginia Employment Commission and expand the testing services in the Roanoke City testing area. This continuing program will be reimbursed 100 per cent by State funds.

\$1,274.00 for the Advanced Placement (AP) Test program to reimburse part or all of the cost of fees for the 2002 AP test for low-income students who take the test. This is a new State funded grant.

The Director of Finance recommended that Council concur in the request of the School Board.

Mr. Bestpitch offered the following emergency budget ordinance:

(#35760-021902) AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain certain sections of the 2001-2002 General and School Funds Appropriations, and providing for an emergency.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 65, page 442.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35760-021902. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Carder, White, Hudson, Bestpitch, Harris, Wyatt and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: None.

MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

REFUSE COLLECTION: Council Member White addressed the issues of litter in the City of Roanoke. He advised that in his travels throughout the City, the litter problem is again surfacing and requested that the City Manager review the City's efforts to control litter. He stated that he has been an advocate of involving citizens in the City's efforts to address the litter situation by developing a comprehensive program to involve young people, senior citizens, and visitors to the community; whereupon, he encouraged the City Manager to review efforts to bring forth a partnership.

REFUSE COLLECTION: Mr. Hudson followed up on Mr. White's earlier comments regarding litter, and referred to the Mud Lick Road neighborhood which had excessive amounts of litter on the street during the early part of the preceding week. He suggested that the City Manager encourage refuse collection employees to be more careful when emptying refuse containers.

The City Manager explained that there was a major wind event last week which created a considerable amount of litter, staff was asked to pick up debris which caused a delay in the refuse collection schedule, and whenever there is a major wind event, litter problems will occur.

WATER RESOURCES: Council Member Wyatt called attention to water that was flowing down her street early this morning that had frozen over night. Specifically, during this period of water conservation, she inquired about establishing a water hot line which would enable citizens to report water issues/concerns, and encouraged refuse collection and public safety personnel to report water situations as they are observed during the course of their work day.

The City Manager advised that such calls are taken on the City E-911 number and the City's central exchange, 853-2000, which number rolls over to the Dispatch Center after hours for emergency calls. Therefore, she expressed concern with regard to adding another number for citizens to remember. She explained that stand by crews are available to address emergency situations after regular work hours.

CIVIC CENTER-CITY CHARTER-LEGISLATION COUNCIL: C o u n c i l Member Bestpitch referred to comments made by the Mayor in his Commentary which appeared in The Roanoke Times on February 11, 2002, regarding the importance of opening debate in serving the best interest of Roanoke's citizens. In that spirit, he advised that he was extremely troubled by much of the remainder of the Commentary, specifically in reference to those City Charter amendments that Council requested its delegation to the General Assembly to introduce. He noted that the

Mayor stated that Council wished to enact a law that would supercede state law; however, Mr. Bestpitch advised that no member of Council believes that Council was trying to do that or could do that. In reference to the issue of carrying concealed weapons, he explained that Council was not trying to do anything because City Council has had that authority for quite some time. He referred to Section 2 Subsection 18 of the City Charter which addresses the ability of Council to regulate or prohibit various dangerous materials and activities, the ability to regulate or prohibit the use of candles and lights in barns, stables and other buildings, the making of bon fires and the carrying of concealed weapons. Therefore, he noted that it was a clear mis-representation of the facts to suggest to the public that Council wanted to enact a law in regard to concealed weapons.

As background information; Mr. Bestpitch explained that a City Charter Bill was introduced at the General Assembly last year in which Council was not trying to make any change to the above referenced section of the City Charter, a call was received at the last minute from the patron's office advising that Council needed to make a decision right away about deleting the concealed weapon power or pull the bill, and since Council had not had any opportunity to discuss the issue, the decision was made to request that the bill be pulled for discussion during the coming year. He further explained that Council requested that the City Charter Bill be reintroduced at the 2002 Session of the General Assembly. He advised that the majority of Council felt that since the State sees fits to give localities few enough powers, it would not set a good precedent for the City to voluntarily request that one of its powers be taken away. He stated that apparently that was not a good enough decision for the Mayor, therefore, he took steps to insure that the entire Charter bill would be killed. He added that another surprise was the Mayor's comments that the City's legislative package contained two particular items that he was adamantly against, when on February 4, the Mayor stated in public session of the Council that he had not engaged in conversation with anyone in Richmond regarding the admissions tax issue, but he did have conversation with members of the General Assembly regarding the City Charter Bill.

Seven days later, Mr. Bestpitch advised that he was surprised to read in the Mayor Commentary that there were two items he was adamantly against: (1) the admissions tax, and (2) the City Charter amendments. He stated that the Mayor is correct about the importance of open debate and that which is in the best interest of Roanoke's citizens.

Therefore, in that spirit, Mr. Bestpitch moved that effective immediately, all open meetings of the Roanoke City Council held in the City Council Chamber will be televised in their entirety, including the Hearing of Citizens Upon Public Matters section of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris.

Mr. White advised that he supports the motion, but the remarks leading up to the motion were inappropriate. He stated that the incidents regarding the defeat of the admissions tax and the City Charter bill could be better addressed by speaking with the Mayor privately.

Mr. Hudson stated that he, too supports the motion; however, disagreements with the Mayor should be addressed in private.

The motion offered by Mr. Bestpitch, seconded by Mr. Harris, was adopted, Mayor Smith voted no.

Vice Mayor Carder advised that public input was being stifled by not televising the City Council meeting in its entirety. He called attention to the level of input that an item receives by Council Members, citizens, community organizations and boards and commissions before the item is addressed on acted upon at a City Council meeting. He noted that the City recently completed a comprehensive plan process that was one of the most open and inclusive processes in the history of the City of Roanoke; Whereupon, he commended the Council, the City Manager and staff on their efforts to be as inclusive as possible by soliciting the input of citizens well in advance of City Council meetings. He stated that it is hoped that the input Council Members receive at City Council meetings represent only a small portion of the input received by Council before an informed decision is made at a City Council meeting.

The Mayor advised that he would like to address two issues: i.e.: the Council procedure and his Commentary in The Roanoke Times on February 11 as referenced by Council Member Bestpitch. He stated that during a Council retreat, the facilitator suggested that those persons who are grandstanding are quite often grandstanding to be on television and if that portion of the Council meeting was not televised, there would be less grandstanding, therefore, Council chose to accept the facilitator's advice. He stated that some of the highest paid department managers, employed by

the City; i.e., the City Manager, City Attorney, Director of Finance and City Clerk, are required to sit through the grandstanding and the amount of time that they are required to spend in City Council meetings takes away from the time they can devote to the duties of their respective offices. He stated that the new procedure has resulted in enhanced dialogue between Council Members and citizens, and the news media continues to cover City Council meetings, even when RVTV coverage of the meeting ended.

With regard to those statements made by Council Member Bestpitch, the Mayor encouraged all citizens to read the Commentary in its entirety and judge for themselves if mis-statements were made. He stated that the door to the Mayor's Office is always open to any person who has a concern.

WATER RESOURCES: As a water conservation tip, the Mayor encouraged citizens to repair leaking water faucets and toilet flush tanks.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: None.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that City Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard. It is also a time for informal dialogue between council members and citizens. Matters requiring referral to the city manager will be referred immediately for response, recommendation or report to council

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Ms. Helen E. Davis, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., advised that many citizens appearing before Council were not grandstanding, but addressing issues that they considered to be pertinent to their neighborhoods.

She requested clarification with regard to the closing of fire stations, and referred to a statement made by Fire Chief James Grigsby that the Fire/EMS department will become more efficient and more cost effective by closing Fire/EMS Station No. 12 and constructing three strategically located stations, which goal would be accomplished by consolidating Fire/EMS Station Nos. 1 and 3 into a flag ship station that will also house Fire/EMS administrative offices. She advised that Fire/EMS Station Nos. 5 and 9 are to be consolidated into a multi-purpose facility and a new Fire/EMS Station 10 is to be constructed off Airport Road; the Fire Chief also states that Fire Station Nos. 3, 5 and 9 will be closed and three stations in northwest Roanoke will be strategically located. She stated that No. 12 Fire Station on Salem

Turnpike is closed, Fire Station No. 1 in downtown Roanoke will be turned into a fire/rescue museum, and Fire Station Nos. 6, 5, and 9 will be razed and the plan calls for construction of a new fire/ems station at Williamson Road. She advised that the statement of the fire Chief is misleading when he says that three new fire stations will be constructed in northwest Roanoke, especially in view of the three stations that will be closed in predominantly minority communities. She stated that fire stations are serious matters, and the City's founding fathers knew what they were doing when they constructed fire stations in these locations. She advised that the Fire Chief has stated that he met with 20 neighborhood groups; however, there are three neighborhood organizations in her community and no meetings were held in the Gainsboro area. She expressed concern with regard to the number of buildings that are razed by the City of Roanoke in the predominantly black community.

WATER RESOURCES: Mr. Donald W. Hussey, 1612 Shamrock Road, N. W., presented information with regard to water conservation, and offered the following suggestions:

“Make creating and saving water sources the City's first priority.

Do what it takes to clean up Crystal Spring and do it immediately. This has been put off far too long.

Drill new wells at Carvins Cove to get the water that has seeped into the ground.

Pipe in water from river sources for manufacturing uses not needing purified water from Carvins Cove and Spring Hollow.

Strongly enforce anti-pollution laws for rivers and streams; impose heavy fines on polluters and force them to clean up the pollution immediately.

Seek out ideas for water conservation from other localities in drought situations.

Check out well-digging businesses for possible new water sites they may have encountered.

Get the public sector involved in water conservation through school projects, brain-storming meetings, newspaper articles with suggestions by readers, etc.

Discontinue camping, hiking, hunting and fishing in the surrounding

woods while in this severe drought. Cigarettes and campfires in dry woods are a no - no. Out of doors activities can be put on hold. We do not need to use our scarce water supply to put out fires. River water should be used whenever possible to put out fires in our woods.

If necessary, put a limit on household water use, according to family size. If the limit is exceeded, impose a fine.

Apply for disaster relief, if possible, from the United States government to help develop new sources of water.”

Mr. Hussey also presented information on urban water conservation tips, home water saving tips, and finding and fixing leaks.

WATER RESOURCES- FIRE DEPARTMENT: The City Manager advised that it is important that all citizens be mindful of water usage, or well as inappropriate use of water through leaking faucets, etc. She encouraged City staff and citizens to report water leakage, regardless of the magnitude.

In response to Ms. Davis’ previous remarks, the City Manager advised that it was her understanding that Ms. Davis was present at the many of the meetings held by Fire Chief Grigsby on the fire station issue; however, given the concerns of Ms. Davis, she will ask the Fire Chief to schedule a meeting in the Gainsboro area.

At 4:15 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess for one closed session.

At 4:50 p.m., the meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, with Mayor Smith presiding.

COUNCIL: With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Mr White moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members White, Hudson, Wyatt, and Mayor Smith-----4.

NAYS: None-----0.

Council Members Carder, Bestpitch and harris were not present when the vote was

recorded.

At 4:55, the Mayor declared the meeting in recess to be reconvened at 5:00 p.m., in the Emergency Operations Center Conference Room , Room 159, for a joint meeting of City Council and the City Planning Commission.

At 5:00 p.m., the Council meeting reconvened in the Emergency Operations Center Conference Room, Room 159, with Mayor Smith presiding, and all Members of the Council in attendance for a joint meeting of City Council and the City Planning Commission.

(----Insert STEPHANIE 'S----- Part)

At 6:30 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess to be reconvened at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber.

On Tuesday, February 19, 2002, at 7:00 p.m., the Roanoke City Council reconvened in regular session in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with the following Council Members in attendance, Mayor Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members William H. Carder, W. Alvin Hudson, Jr., William D. Bestpitch, C. Nelson Harris, Linda F. Wyatt and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----6.

ABSENT:Council Member William White, Sr. -----1.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The reconvened meeting was opened with a prayer by Council Member C. Nelson Harris.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Smith.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

COMMUNITY PLANNING: Pursuant to action by Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Tuesday, February 19, 2002, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon

thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider an amendment of Vision 2001-2020, the adopted Comprehensive Plan for the City of Roanoke, Virginia, dated August 20, 2001, to include this Outlook Roanoke Update, an updated development plan for downtown Roanoke, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in The Roanoke Times on Thursday, February 14, 2002, and in The Roanoke Tribune on Thursday, February 14, 2002.

Mr. Bestpitch offered the following resolution:

“A RESOLUTION amending Vision 2001-2020 the City’s adopted comprehensive plan to include Outlook Roanoke Update pr an element of the comprehensive plan.”

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder.

Robert B. Manetta, Chair, City Planning Commission, advised that the purpose of the Outlook Roanoke Plan is to provide a framework for prioritizing and coordinating development programs and planning activities in the downtown area; and the Plan identified several priorities that are categorized into five initiative areas and opportunities:

Elmwood Park Initiative (park enhancement, library alternatives, new development opportunities)

Church Avenue Initiative (Jefferson and Church development opportunities, Williamson and Church development opportunities, Church Avenue development opportunities.

E-Town Initiative (Warehouse Row, Campbell Avenue and other development opportunities).

Market Initiative (City Market area development opportunities).

Jefferson Center Initiative (Jefferson Center area development opportunities).

He advised that the Plan recommends implementation of these development initiatives when two or more individual components are ready to move forward; and the Plan also identifies market strategies for economic development, residential

development and retail/entertainment; the economic development strategy recommends marketing the variety of amenities in the downtown; the residential strategy recommends the targeting of market-rate housing in the downtown through adaptive re-use of existing buildings and new construction; and the retail/entertainment strategy encourages the expansion of specialty retail and dining opportunities.

He noted that the Outlook Roanoke Plan further recommends infrastructure and traffic improvements designed to encourage connectivity within the downtown and beyond to adjacent neighborhoods as well as the region (i.e. greenways); and Vision 2001 - 2020 Comprehensive Plan recommends that the City adopt neighborhood plans for all neighborhoods with the downtown area considered to be one of the City's neighborhoods.

The City Planning Commission recommended that Council amend Vision 2001-2020, the City's Adopted Comprehensive Plan, to include the Outlook Roanoke Update, as an element of the Plan.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to address Council in connection with the matter; whereupon, Steven Lemon, 2505 Cornwallis Avenue, S. E., Chair, Economic Development Committee and Treasurer of Downtown Roanoke, Inc., advised that Downtown Roanoke, Inc., has been an integral part of the planning process for creation of the Outlook Roanoke Update, and expressed appreciation to all person who were involved in the process. He stated that the Board of Directors of Downtown Roanoke, Inc., adopted a resolution in support of the final plan document and encourages favorable consideration by Council of the Outlook Roanoke Update.

Mr. E. Duane Howard, 508 Walnut Avenue, S. W., requested that Council consider the issue of Bullitt Avenue extension and that Council hold a public hearing on the matter.

Barbara N. Duerk, 2607 Rosalind Avenue, S. W., Co-Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Selection Committee, advised that a recommendation of the committee was submitted to the City Manager which included Justice Square and Freedom Walk and it is hoped that these recommendations will take place in a portion of Elmwood Park. She advised that the Mill Mountain Greenway, which extends from the City Market area toward Mill Mountain, is proposed to go through Elmwood Park and it was the vision of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee that Freedom Walk would highlight the significant events of Roanoke's civil rights era. She advised that the Justice Park recommendation has been refined and Justice Park can be located at an appropriate location in the City. She stated that the City of Roanoke is and

should be open for business, but Roanoke is no longer a farmer's market economy, because its economy is local, national and international, and Roanoke should be perceived as a City that is inclusive of all people of all races, religions and creed.

There being no further speakers, Mr. Harris advised that Council engaged in considerable discussion regarding the matter at its 5:00 p.m. joint session with the City Planning Commission.

(See pages -----)

He called attention to a number of significant issues contained in the Outlook Roanoke Update in which Council Members requested specific work sessions, some of which involve significant budgetary implications. Therefore, he stated that its 5:00 p. m. session, it was the consensus of Council to receive the Outlook Roanoke Plan, and engage in future work sessions and budget review.

Mr. Harris offered a substitute motion that action on the above refernced resolution be tabled. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and unanimously adopted.

The Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised City Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard. It is also a time for informal dialogue between Council members and citizens. Matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for response, recommendation or report to Council.

COMPLAINTS: Mr. Robert Gravely, 1617 Hanover Avenue, N. W., expressed concern with regard to the overall condition of the City of Roanoke; i.e.: the City's vision does not include disadvantaged and minority citizens, the City supports the affluent and outside business interests, and the City supports of downtown Roanoke as opposed to other parts of the City of Roanoke.

COMPLAINTS- CITY COUNCIL: Mr. E. Duane Howard, 508 Walnut Avenue, S. W., spoke with regard to the action taken by Council at its 2:00 p.m. session in regard to reinstating RVTV coverage of the City Council meeting in its entirety. He stated that citizens will continue to lobby City Council to reinstate citizen comments under the Petitions and Communications section of the Council agenda.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

Mary F. Parker
City Clerk

Ralph K. Smith
Mayor
